

## Message Text

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13  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 OIC-04 DRC-01 SS-20

NSC-07 L-03 H-03 PRS-01 /097 W  
----- 053010

R 061540Z JUN 74  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO USMISSION GENEVA  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8260  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA  
USINT DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SANAA  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/ADECON 6/6/75  
TAGS: ELAB, LE, XF  
SUBJECT: 59TH ILO CONFERENCE - AN EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY FOR US-  
ARAB LABOR CONTACTS

SUMMARY: EMBASSY, NOTING PROPITIOUS ME TRENDS AND GROWING  
INDICATIONS OF ARAB INTEREST IN LABOR COOPERATION WITH US, URGES  
USG DELEGATES AND AAFLI TO EXPLOIT OPPORTUNITY TO  
RENEW AND STRENGTHEN LABOR TIES WITH ARABS THAT ILO CONFERENCE  
AFFORDS.END SUMMARY.

1. AS 59TH ILO CONFERENCE GETS UNDERWAY, WE WOULD LIKE TO ALERT  
US DEL TO AUSPICIOUS ME TRENDS THAT MAKE CONFERENCE  
AN EXTRAORDINARY OCCASION TO RENEW AND STRENGTHEN US-ARAB LABOR  
RELATIONS. IN CONTRAST TO ONE YEAR AGO, WHEN THESE RELATTONS WERE  
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AT ALL-TIME LOW, AND ARAB DELEGATES PLAYED POLITICS TO POINT OF  
PARALYZING 58TH CONFERENCE, THIS YEARS ARAB PARTICIPANTS APPEAR FOR

THE MOST PART DESIROUS OF AVOIDING POLITICAL CONFRONTATION AND WELCOMING PERSONAL CONTACT--ESPECIALLY WITH WESTERN AND US DELEGATES.

2. PRIMARY REASON FOR ARABS' TURNABOUT HAS, OF COURSE, BEEN DRAMATIC CHANGES IN ME AND SUSTAINED MOVEMENT UNDER US AUSPICES TOWARD PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, WHICH HAS GIVEN MODERATES FREEDOM TO OPENLY TURN AGAIN TO AMERICANS. AS RESULT, THERE ARE GROWING NUMBER OF ARAB OFFICIALS IN LABOR FIELD WHO DEDICATED AND ACTIVELY WORKING TO ESTABLISH CLOSE COOPERATION WITH US.

3. WE WOULD CONSEQUENTLY URGE RANKING USG DELEGATES TO MEET WITH AND ENCOURAGE SUCH PATENT FRIENDS AS JORDANIAN LABOR MINISTER DR. YUSIF DHIHNI AND YEMENI LABOR MINISTER MUHAMMAD BASINDWAH (WHO WILL VISIT US IN LATE SUMMER UNDER IV GRANT), TO CITE BUT TWO OFFICIALS WITH WHOM REGIONAL LABATT HAS HAD WARM TALKS DURING PAST MONTH. SIMILARLY, WE WOULD RECOMMEND CONTACT WITH GOL DEL (COMPRISING LABOR MINISTER EMILE ROUHANNA SACRE AND THREE AIDES: DIR-GEN HAMID KHOURY, (WHO CLOSE TO PRES. FRANGIE) CABINET CHIEF MAROUF SOUEID AND CHIEF PLANS/ POLICY FOUAD NASR ABI RAAD) WHICH COULD ALSO BE USEFUL IN INTRODUCING USG DELEGATES TO OTHER ARABS.

4. SINCE CONFERENCE WILL COINCIDE WITH PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO ME, MOREOVER, THERE IS OPPORTUNITY NOT ONLY FOR CONTACT WITH KNOWN FRIENDS BUT ALSO WITH PAST ANTAGONISTS, SUCH AS EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS WHO, FROM ALL INDICATIONS, WOULD BE INTERESTED IN RESUMING RELATIONSHIP WITH USG LABOR OFFICIALS.

5. ON TRADE UNION SIDE, CORRESPONDING OPPORTUNITY EXISTS FOR AAFLI TO IMPROVE EXISTING TIES AND FORGE OTHERS WITH ARAB LABOR LEADERS AT GENEVA. NOW THAT ARAB WORLD APPEARS TO BE COMING OUT OF ITS ISOLATION, IN LABOR FIELD, LEBANESE, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE SENDING UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER OF LABOR LEADERS (12), INCLUDING CONFEDERATION PRESIDENT GABRIEL KHOURY AND HEADS OF EIGHT FEDERATIONS. ACCOMPANYING KHOURY WILL BE SEVEN MEMBERS OF HIS DOMINANT FACTION-- JOHN SABA (EDUCATION AND HEALTH WORKERS), AFIF HARIZ (INSURANCE EMPLOYEES), DARWISH RAI (HOTEL/RESTAURANT WORKERS), HUSSEIN ALI HUSSEIN (LEAGE), AZIZ WAZEN (LEAGUE), LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOHAMMAD AL ASSIR (DOCKWORKERS), HALIM MATTAR (PRINTERS)--AS WELL AS THREE LEADERS OF PETROLEUM WORKERS--GEORGE SACRE (KHOURY(S ARCH-RIVAL, WADIH SIMAAN, AFIF ZEINATI--AND ONE COMMUNIST-- ELIAS HABRE (WE RECOMMEND AAFLI INVITE ALL BUT HABRE TO ITS RECEPTION AND MEET INDIVIDUALLY WITH KHOURY AND SACRE).

6. BUT PERHAPS BEST SIGN OF TIMES--AND OF ENHANCED LABOR PROSPECTS FOR US IN ARAB WORLD--WILL BE JORDANIAN WORKER DEL, CO-LED BY NEWLY-ELECTED JFTU SEC-GEN AHID QINTAR WHO JUST SIX MONTHS AGO GRADUATED FROM HARVARD TRADE UNION SEMINAR.

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